will be for five years, two years for Junior Research Fellowship and three years as Senior Research Fellowship subject to satisfactory progress of Research work.

(c) Actual expenditure will depend upon response of students towards the scheme.

Pension scheme for disabled persons

†845. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons in the country;

(b) whether Government have considered or are likely to consider to launch a pension scheme for those persons who are totally disabled and unable to do any work; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) According to Census 2001, there are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities in the country.

(b) and, (c) No, Sir. The subject matter of providing pension to persons with disabilities comes under the purview of the State Governments/U.T. Aministrations. Many State Governments/U.T. Administrations are providing disability pension to persons with disabilities.

Impact of schemes for street children

†846. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for street children has failed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons, for its failure; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to make this scheme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been regularly impressing upon the State Governments to motivate reputed NGOs to set up projects under the scheme.

Report of GoM on reservation in private sector

847. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Group of Ministers (GoM) set upto look into the matter of reservation of SCs/STs and backward classes in private sector has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) by when this report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since no time-frame has been fixed for the Group of Ministers, there is no question of delay.

Funds for scholarships to SC students

848. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the funds granted for scholarships by Government to 69000 Scheduled Caste students in Andhra Pradesh is about Rs. 175 crores out of which Rs. 143 crores was still due by December, 2005; and

(b) if so, when the balance amount will be released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received. The Ministry releases funds to Government of Andhra Pradesh under

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.